

CX #1883

Evidentiary Document No. 5246.

Exhibit 'B'

OCEAN ISLAND WAR CRIMES

I, SX10334 Major Douglas John McBAIN of Army Headquarters, Melbourne, make oath and say:

1. I am an officer of the Australian Military Forces.
2. Annexed hereto and marked Exhibit 'B' is a true copy of 31/51 Aust. Inf. En (A.I.F.) Nauru-Ocean Island Force, Investigations relating to fate of Europeans on Ocean Island made on 19 Oct. 1945 which I have in my custody in the course of my duties.
2. The original above mentioned document cannot be made available immediately as it is required for trials of minor war criminals.

Sworn before me at MELBOURNE)
this 27th day of May, 1946.) (sgd) DOUGLAS McBAIN Major.

(Sgd) W. BUNSELL Capt.
An officer of the
Australian Military Forces.

31/51 AUST. INF. BN (AIF)
NAURU OCEAN ISLAND FORCE

SECRET
19 Oct, 45,

Exhibit 'B'

INVESTIGATIONS RELATING TO FATE OF
EUROPEANS ON OCEAN ISLAND.

The following investigation was conducted on NAURU ISLAND at the direction of the Military Commander by questioning natives of OCEAN ISLAND whom had been transferred during Jap occupation of both islands. The natives questioned were DAVID MURDOCK, KATANGITANG and KIATRA, OCEAN ISLANDERS, on 19 Oct. 45.

On 20 Oct. 45 three other witnesses, NANTA, CHARLIE and MOTE, were interrogated.

DAVID MURDOCK, GILBERTSE, STATES:-

I left OCEAN ISLAND in July, 1943. I found the Japs to be very harsh and cruel.

There were six Europeans on the island:

Mr. CARTWRIGHT
Mr. MERCER
Mr. COLE
Mr. THIRD
Father PUJEBET and
Catholic Brother.

The first four Europeans were imprisoned and were moved about various places of imprisonment.

Father PUJEBET and the Brother were not imprisoned.

They were all treated harshly. I often saw Japanese Officers beating Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MERCER and Mr. COLE, but not Mr. THIRD, with sticks and struck on the face and jaw. They were very thin and unhealthy and suffering from all the indignities and lack of food. Mr. CARTWRIGHT died on Good Friday 1943 as a result of starvation. He was buried in the European Cemetery at OOMA, one of the natives present was Sjt/Major NAPE. The grave was marked with a stone pillar. I know where the grave is.

Mr. MERCER died shortly after Mr. CARTWRIGHT, probably a few months. After Mr. CARTWRIGHT died the Japanese continued their ill treatment of the remaining Europeans. I saw Mr. MERCER a few days before his death, but did not speak to him. Other natives and Japs told us that Mr. MERCER had died. I was told he was buried by the Japs at TAPIWA.

A few months later I left for NAURU ISLAND. Prior to leaving I was questioned by the Japs in the Power House as to the whereabouts of certain spare parts which the EPC had buried. These parts were essential to start the Power House. I refused to give the information to the Jap Commander, DOYAMA, who then called in soldiers, who beat me with an iron pipe, and threatened me with rifle and sword. I was ordered outside. I could not walk, but crawled out. Mr. COLE, who was waiting outside was called in and likewise questioned. I saw them beating Mr. COLE with the same iron pipe, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter by 7 feet long. Mr. COLE's nose was bleeding. That was the last time that I saw Mr. COLE.

Q. Were the other Europeans alive, when Mr. MERCER died.

A. Yes, besides Mr. COLE, there was Mr. THIRD, who I never saw ill treated and appeared to be in good health. Father FUJEBET and the Brother (BRUMELL) were on the island, but neither were imprisoned. I did not see the Clergy ill treated, although I had heard of indignities against them.

Q. Is there any one else on the island, who knows what happened to the remaining civilians.

A. Yes. KATANGITANG, who is at present on NAURU may know.

Q. Were you ill treated prior to the incident you have mentioned (beating in the Power House)

A. Yes, I was taken prisoner on the first day and then after questioning was released.

Q. Why did they arrest you.

A. Because I was mistaken for a European, (Mr. MURDOCK is half-caste and has pronounced European features).

Q. What questions were you asked.

A. Where was the Australian money, to which I replied I did not know.

A few months later I was questioned again as to the whereabouts of certain BPC machinery. I denied all knowledge and was beaten with a stick. I was ordered not to leave my village at OOMA and was confined there.

Q. Were you continually confined there.

A. Yes, except when under escort for working parties did I leave the village. We were engaged in digging trenches, building emplacements etc.

Q. Do you know of any atrocities perpetrated against other natives, whilst you were there?

A. The Japs first landed in August, 1942. About 6 months after they landed three OCEAN ISLANDERS - TAMOA, TOANIKARAWA and ROBERT were beheaded in the native cemetery for stealing. All the native inhabitants on the island were ordered to witness this execution and were warned that a similar fate awaited those who did not attend. I did not see the first two, but did see ROBERT beheaded. The Jap Commander, DANURA, was present and the executioners were soldiers NOT officers.

Q. Were the natives tried before executions.

A. Yes.

DAVID MURDOCK CONTINUES

About May, 1943, the Japs had completed the construction of an electric wire around OOMA POINT. Three native prisoners, named KAUBABA, BANGAL and TAUANTANG, all Gilbertese, were taken from the native prison. These three natives were dressed in military uniform and taken to the water's edge, facing the wire, and the winner of the race would gain first prize, which was a trip to KUSAI in the CAROLINES. (At this time food was scarce on OCEAN and prospects at KUSAI was considered very bright). The natives started the race and as they touched the wire they were electrocuted.

Evidentiary Document No. 5246.

Page 4.

Q. Do you know the names of any Japs witnessing this event.
A. No, I will find out.

Q. What did they do to the native bodies.
A. I do not know.

Q. Who was the Jap Commander at this time.
A. DOYAMA

Q. Were there any other atrocities.
A. Not that I know of, there may have been.

Q. Was Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. MERCER dead before this happened.
A. Yes. Not long before.

Q. How did you find conditions on NAURU compared to OCEAN.
A. Much better, although the Japs were cruel on NAURU, it was much worse on OCEAN. Beatings and severity was much more common.

Q. What was the name of the boat you came over in.
A. IKUDA MARU about 7,000 tons. We left OCEAN at 1700 hours one day and arrived NAURU 0400 hours the next morning.

Q. Who were the Jap Commanders whilst you were on the island.
A. (1) DANURA (? TANIURA)
(2) DOYAMA (? TOYAMA)
MATAKE 2 i/c

Q. Did you see MATAKE perpetrate any cruelties.
A. He may have, being second in command.

Questioning of KATANGITANG a native of OCEAN, who was brought over to NAURU by the Japs, approximately Sept. 1943.

This native gave similar answers to the questions above.

Q. Were you ever maltreated on OCEAN ISLAND.
A. Yes, once I went to retrieve a broken husk of pawpaw in front of the No. 1 Jap Doctor's dwelling. He saw me and beat me with a hockey stick. I fell down after about twenty strokes. Three times I fell down, receiving about 60 strokes in all.

Q. When did you leave OCEAN.
A. About one or two months after MURDOCK

Q. Were the remaining four Europeans alive when you left.
A. The Father had died before I left. I do not know whether Mr. COLE or Mr. THIRD were alive or not. The Brother was alive.

Q. How did the Father die.
A. I heard from the Brother that Father PUJEBET who was quite well and not sick had been taken to the hospital and operated

on in the stomach. He was not seen again. The Brother told us that the Japs had killed the Father.

Q. Do you know where Father PUJEBET is buried.
A. No.

Q. Can you remember exact date when the Father died.
A. No, a few weeks before I left.

Q. Did any further OCEAN ISLANDERS come over after you left.
A. No, our ship was the last, about forty of us. It was a big ship.

Q. And who were the remaining Europeans.
A. Mr. COLE and the Brother I saw. I did not see Mr. THIRD.

Q. When was the last time you saw Mr. THIRD.
A. About three months before I left.

Q. Did you ever see Mr. THIRD ill treated.
A. No.

Q. Did you see the other Europeans being ill treated.
A. I saw Mr. COLE, being beaten and the others forced to do hard labour.

Q. Do you know the names of any Japs, who committed any cruelties.
A. No, I don't know their names, they were all cruel. The name of the officer, who took the Father away was KOTSUA.

Q. When was the last time you spoke to the Father.
A. About a week before he was taken away. He told me that this officer KOTSUA was continually pestering him, calling in at his house, searching through the trunks and rooms and often spitting in his face.

Q. What actually did the Brother tell you.
A. He said that the Father had died, and he thought that he had been murdered.

Q. What did KOTSUA do.
A. I do not know. He wore two stars.

Q. How many natives remained on the island after you left.
A. About 50 to 60 married, 160 single. We were told that the 50 married families were to go to the CAROLINES, whilst the 160 single were to remain. We were told they were going away for a week after we left.

Exhibitary Document No. 5246.

This is the document marked Exhibit 'B' referred to in the affidavit of SX10334, Maj. D. J. McBain, AHQ, sworn before me this 27th day of May, 1946, as being produced and shown to him at this time of his swearing his said affidavit.

(signed) W. BUNSELL, Capt.

1883

161

乙 傷害事件五二四六号 案卷之三
一、才也了ノ島 軍事代理
一、一九四五年三月十八日陸軍司令部附于住才也了ノ島
江主ノ久々久ノハ宣誓し陳述入
一、余ハ濱洲軍將校十二
一、二、詔書、B、上記添附是書類、一九四五年十月十九日
3/19濱洲軍軍事委員會付才也了ノ島、才也了ノ島
才也了ノ島在住歐洲人、運命之向之調查、道友才也了
二、江主ノ久々久、余ハ公務上其、管轄之界、一九四五年十月
上記書類、原本ハ終戦半紀以來、裁判、交戦用兵
居たる事ハ八年不能付。別紙、裁判、交戦用兵
ノラス。アリハシム（署名）
一九四六年五月十六日才也了ノ島、前於
宣誓行上り候

W. アンゼル大尉
濱洲軍將校

3/19濱洲軍軍事委員會付才也了ノ島
才也了ノ島、一九四五年十月十九日
證據 B、

才也了ノ島在住歐洲人、運命之向之調查
左調査、一九四五年十月十九日才也了ノ島於軍司令室、
指令通り行ひ、才也了ノ島は日本軍に十歳才也了ノ島ヲ
占領地此處解説せらる。才也了ノ島様家六村才也了
多比調向ナリ、訊向才也了ノ島住民の行方、
アラソウカタニヤクナ及ビ才也了ノ島ナリ

一九四五年十月十九日他三名、證人即ナ才也了ノ島ナリ
及ビモウトガ調向才也了ノ島ナリ

Doc 5246

第五二四六号

ギルバート島在住 ダニエルマクシック傳述。私、一九四三年。

七月オーラン島ヨリ去ル。私ハ日本軍が非常ニ乱暴テ餓死アルヲ知ル。島ニハ大人コロハ人ア居ル。

カトライト氏
マサ！ 氏
コル 氏
サド 氏

アシベ！ 神父トカソリツク故後
即、聖母ハ聖母サレ種タ、聖母湯沐浴ニ移サレタ。アシベ！
神父及故後ハ聖母サレガタ。彼等ハ凡テ亂暴十極
愛ケタ。

私ハ日本軍士官ガカトライト氏、コサム、コル氏ヲ捕テ
ナゲリ。娘ヤ、手足ヲタジリテ屁ヒト谷々見タ。併シ
サム氏ハナウテナカシタ。彼等ハ非常ニヤセ、不健康ニ
ナリ。又、アラニル傷害、食糧不足ニ若シニテ屁タ。
カトライト氏ハ餓、結果、一九四三年 腹全空日=死
ゲ。彼ハオーラコロハ人墓地ニ埋葬サレタ。

2. 墓裏ノ列席シタ現地人中一人ハ、不ノブ特務曹長テアリ。
墓ハ右柱ニサタドラシテ居ル。私ハ墓ノ場所ヲ知リテ居ル。
マサ氏ハカトライト氏、死後、マセナリシテ、多分數ヶ月
後死ニシテ。カトライト氏、死ニシテ後モ、日本軍ハ餓、
ヨリハアビドク取リ扱ヒ傳ケタ。私ハマサ氏ニ死ヌル

Dec 5246

✓6.3.

數日來ニ連々交渉ハシタリ。

他、観他人に日本人械々ヤーザー兵既死、
二十三語ウ。和ハ條タル日本軍ニテ埋葬せしト
聞矣。

數ヶ月後和ハ大内北島二朗少平登陸シ。和登陸後
川本、和ハB.C.が埋火矢或ニ空襲、部分爆、附在
二十九年三月電報、日本軍ニ度不キレ。三月、部分
爆ハ登陸所ヲ運転之火ノ火事也。火事中止下シ。
和ハ日本軍七機墜落、火事也。火事ハ事後、往々
被災者有、甚少アリ。

彼等ハ餘火未了、和ヲナリ。小競斗食不すやアリ。

和ハ外ニ出上命セラシタガ暮トカツク、未達シテ尚ク。

外ニ付シ不屈夕カツヒ氏ハ入アレ。同様、近内亦然。

5246

私ノ傳記ノ中ノ事一月廿二日、同上。此ノ件ノ事
是ノ居ト見入。此ノ民一員ヲ立候が事ノ居ト。
ソシガ私ガ此ノ民ヲ見入且取後アリタ。

向 二十一日廿二時他、歐洲人、日本者共居ノ内。

答、二十一日、他二十二日居テ彼、虐待事件上、國籍有
ガト、日本本國領事館ヤリテア。アリテ一時以テカツ、
教徒アリテ、同居居トシカ、二人ニ申スル事ニシテ
ナシ。然、教師、海軍ヨリナム同士、其母待テ居
ト、因ニトヨリアリセ。

* * *

向 貢下ソニ居同、他、原住民ニ付、二十九日奉行、知
事居トス。

答、日本寧、一九四二年八月二日、上陸ノテ被暴行、既後
六日間経テ、三人（本邦人、外國人）アリトウカ？曰ハ
ト、本邦人、地主、土地、全地、於首輪、トク島、
金佐風、此執行ノ目人様命令サル事ナキ、同様
運命ガ付テ居テ松井少佐（私）最初、二人、見入
カツテ、上級官吏、十月、八月、八月。日本寧、指揮官宣
明テ、（誤注、田村）か之列席、執行者ハ教名
、姓、氏、官職ナカツ。

10.4

向、此、原住民運行刑、執行前、裁判ニ附サシタカ。
答、ソウカス。

アガリ、アガリ、更、傳聞。

5246

1933年正月某日，日本軍六百人侵入，因[圖]電線、敷
設、電車、火車等之關係，停頓，（日）人以之為機，令
停止工作（金門半島一千萬人），停住民監禁，由其
主導。此三人，（原任官員）：董服，着也，水陸二行
者，（原任官員）：周，（原任官員）：之，（原任官員）：徐，
皆赴（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）
（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）
（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）
（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）：

（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）：（新竹）：

26 26 26 26

1/11 5

一九四三年頃、日本人ニ依リナリル島三連にて未だノコリ
ニヤノ島原住民カタニギタニ村入山實向

Doc. 5246

* 米 米 米

問 貴方ハオレヤン島テ虐待ヲ受ケテコトアリスカ

答ハシ、私ハ一度、日本人医師第一号住宅、前ニアルバラハウ、
只ヒタガ取リ二行キマシ。彼ハ私ヲ見ルトホシケド、泥
棒テ私ヲ打ナシテ、二十四位打クレタ後、私ハ倒レマシ。
皆テ六十回、殴打ラ受ケテ私ハ三回倒レマシ。

問 何時貴方ハオレヤン島ヲ発キシムカ

答 マドック、本船後約一二ヶ月テシテ。

問 貴方が出テヨク時、寺ツタ四人、欧洲人、生キテマシカ

答 神父ハ私、船ツ前ニ亡クナシキマシ。コル岱上サヘ
氏々生キテモカドウカハ私ハ知リマセニ。カソリック教會
員ハ生キテキマシ。

問 神父ハドウシテ死ニシムカ

答 私ハ教會員カラ日頃健康ニ堪能、ナカツア
ミベイ神父が入院シテ曾シ手術ヲウケタト聞キマシ。
ガシレ以後才目ニカリマセントシタ。教會員、諸テハ
神父ハ日本人ニ殺サシタケトイコトナシ。

* 米 米 米

1/6.

Doc. 5246

問 サトウが虐待セラフ見セラカ

答 不_二

問 他ヨーロッパが虐待セラフ見セラカ

答 私は少佐級打セレ他人達サ警視監視官傳フセラフ見セラカ

問 最後三賣方が神父話セラフ何時テシカ

答 猥が連行セル約一周間方アメ 僕(?)學校コノ合音譯
絶え未練、家ニカサリヤリ未トラノヤ都屋ヲ搜¹。屢々
彼面壁²シ。彼憤³セラフ申シカ。

問 寒隙⁴处⁵餘余具⁶賣⁷何⁸話セラカ

答 彼⁹神父死¹⁰シ¹¹思¹²セラフ殺セラカ。ト守¹³セラカ。

米 米 米

乙六〇×一〇三三四 陸軍司令官少佐 D. T. ベンジニア候
書中ニ於¹⁴言及セラル 譲稿 B. J. リサ¹⁵書類ニ于
本日一九四六年六月二十七日 余面前ニ於¹⁶彼が前述宣誓
セラ時¹⁷ 彼參照¹⁸セラム。

W. T. 大尉 (署名)

7

16.